

OIE Code Chapter on Zoning and Compartmentalization
Chapter 1.3.5

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report – October 2006

Suggested change:

Biosecurity plan

means a plan that identifies potential pathways for the introduction and spread of *disease* in a *zone* or *compartment*, and describes the measures which are being or will be applied to mitigate the *disease* risks in accordance, when applicable, with the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*. ~~The plan also describes how these measures are audited to ensure that the risks are regularly re-assessed and the measures adjusted accordingly.~~

Rationale: We are recommending that the last sentence be deleted from the definition of “Biosecurity plan”, because this is a sentence which is used again in the body of the Chapter, and we believe that this is the appropriate place to state the requirements of the biosecurity plan (such as audit requirements) rather than in its definition.

Suggested change:

General Comment: Article 1.3.5.1 Introduction.

- a) In the third paragraph, the term “management systems” is changed to “management practices”. However, at the end of the previous paragraph, the term “management system” is retained. We recommend the terms be used consistently in the Chapter.
- b) In the penultimate paragraph of this article, suggest adding the words “A generic or common approach to”... to the beginning of the paragraph:

A generic or common approach to Zoning and compartmentalisation cannot be applied to all *diseases* but separate requirements will be developed for each *disease* for which the application of zoning or compartmentalisation is considered appropriate.

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Suggested change:

Article 1.3.5.2

General Considerations

General Comment: The term ‘*Veterinary Services*’ is used three times in the first paragraph of this Article and two times in the second paragraph. In the context of these two paragraphs and the new proposed terms in the Code Chapter of General Definitions, the terms ‘*Competent Authority* or *Veterinary Authority*’ would be more appropriate, as the text in these paragraphs addresses negotiations between government entities. The other uses of the term ‘*Veterinary Services*’ in Article 1.3.5.2 appear appropriate.

....

The *Veterinary Services* should provide movement certification, periodic inspections of facilities, biosecurity measures, records and surveillance procedures. *Veterinary Services* should audit surveillance and reporting and conduct or oversee [either directly or through contractual arrangements with other laboratories](#), laboratory diagnostic examinations.

Rationale: The United States recommends including the added language as indicated above to the last paragraph in this Article to recognize those agreements that the national veterinary administration may make with certain specific laboratories (such as occurs in the United States with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network – NAHLN)

Suggested change:

Article 1.3.5.4.

Principles for defining a zone or compartment

In conjunction with the above considerations, the following principles should apply when ~~Member Countries~~ defining a zone or a compartment should be based on the application of the following principles:

1.

- 4 The existence of a valid animal traceability system is a prerequisite to assess the integrity of the zone or compartment. ~~Animals~~ [Domestic food animals](#) within the zone or compartment should be identified in such a way that their history can be audited. Depending on the system of production, identification may be done at the herd, flock lot or individual animal level. All [domestic food](#) animal movements into and out of the zone or compartment should be well documented, controlled and supervised.

USA Comments – TAHSC October 2006 Report

Rationale: Need to clarify the term “animals”. Any “zone” will include wild animals and no country can truly control their movement. The United States suggests using the term “domestic food animals” to provide this clarity.